



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2005 Wisconsin Act 365
[2005 Assembly Bill 556]

**Trailers or Semitrailers Used to
Transport Livestock**

Under *current law*, with limited exceptions, no one may operate a single vehicle that exceeds 40 feet in length without obtaining a permit from the Department of Transportation. One exception allows a person to operate, without a permit, a two-vehicle combination *transporting livestock* if the trailer is not longer than 53 feet, the trailer axles are either separated by at least eight feet or are three axles in tandem, and the towing vehicle is not a truck or tractor that weighs 10,000 pounds or less.

With reference to this two-vehicle livestock combination exception, *2005 Wisconsin Act 365* eliminates the requirement that the trailer axles be separated by at least eight feet or be three axles in tandem, and instead replaces it with the requirement that the trailer *or semitrailer* (the Act adds “semitrailer”) be equipped with *at least two axles*. The Act specifies that a two-vehicle combination within this exception must be *designed and primarily used for* transporting livestock (i.e., adds “designed and primarily used for”).

Effective Date: The Act takes effect on May 4, 2006.

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April 27, 2006

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.